Message Text

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P 092354Z NOV 73 FM SECSTATE WASHDC TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN PRIORITY AMEMBASSY BEIRUT BY POUCH

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: ETRN, IR

SUBJECT: CIVAIR - CHANGES IN PAN AMERICAN'S PATTERN OF OPERATIONS

1. THERE FOLLOWS THE TEXT OF A NOTE (OR AIDE MEMOIRE), IF THE EMBASSY PREFERS) AND ATTACHMENT, INTENDED TO PROVIDE THE GOI WITH ADVANCE NOTICE OF CHANGES PAN AM IS PLANNING TO INTRODUCE IN ITS ROUND-THE-WORLD AND RELATED NEAR EAST SERVICES NEXT SPRING. UNLESS EMBASSY HAS OBJECTIONS, THIS MATERIAL SHOULD BE DELIVERED TO THE GOI ASAP. (THE URGENCY IS CAUSED BY NECESSITY OF PAN AM "REVEALING" AT LEAST GENERAL OUTLINES OF ITS PLANNED CHANGES DURING AN IATA MEETING STARTING NOV 12, AND OUR INTEREST IN GIVING GOI ITS FIRST--OR HOPEFULLY AT LEAST SIMULTANEOUS--NOTIFICATION OF THE CHANGES ON GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT BASIS. WE WILL POUCH FYI A MORE DETAILED DISCUSSION OF WHAT THE PAA CHANGES WILL ENTAIL.)

2. THE CHANGES INCLUDE THREE WEEKLY TEHRAN-NEW DELHI SER-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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VICES WHICH ARE NOT COVERED BY THE AGREED SERVICE LEVELS WITH THE GOI. IN THE NEGOTIATIONS LEADING TO THE AGREE-MENT, THE GOI OFTEN EXPRESSED ASSURANCES THAT CHANGES IN THE AGREED SERVICES WOULD RECEIVE SYMPATHETIC CONSIDERATION

AND WE ARE HOPEFUL THAT THESE CHANGES WILL BE TREATED ACCORDINGLY.

TEXT OF NOTE OR AIDE MEMOIRE

FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS PAN AMERICAN WORLD AIRWAYS HAS BEEN OPERATING A ROUND-THE-WORLD SERVICE. THE PRINCIPAL REASON FOR THIS SERVICE HAS BEEN, OF COURSE, TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THE LARGE NUMBERS OF AMERICANS TRAVELING BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND VARIOUS COUNTRIES ON THE GLOBE, AS WELL AS THOSE ADVENTURESOME TOURISTS WHO ACTUALLY MAKE THE COMPLETE ROUND-THE-WORLD TRIP AS A VACATION EXPERIENCE. IN ADDITION, PAN AMERICAN'S SERVICE HAS PROVIDED TRANSPORTATION FOR MANY PASSENGERS OF OTHER COUNTRIES TRAVELING TO OR FROM THE U.S. AS WELL AS COINCIDENTALLY BETWEEN POINTS TOUCHED BY THE ROUND-THE-WORLD OPERATION, POINTS SOMETIMES NOT ESPECIALLY WELL SERVED BY OTHER AIRLINES.

DURING 1971, BECAUSE OF GROWING TRAFFIC AND THE ECON-OMIES INHERENT IN THE USE OF NEW WIDE-BODIED AIRCRAFT, PAN AMERICAN INTRODUCED BOEING 747 EQUIPMENT ON THE COMPLETE ROUND-THE-WORLD ROUTING. THE EXPERIENCE OF THIS AIRCRAFT HAS MORE THAN JUSTIFIED ITS USE, BUT AT THE SAME TIME MADE CLEAR A REQUIREMENT FOR SOME MAJOR ALTERATIONS IN THE SERVICES PROVIDED IN ORDER TO BRING BACK TO THE ROUND-THE-WORLD THE OPERATIONAL RELIABILITY DEMANDED BY PASSENGERS.

MANY FACTORS HAVE INFLUENCED THIS REQUIREMENT FOR CHANGE. AMONG THE MOST SIGNIFICANT ARE THE NEED TO ELIMINATE SOME STOPS ON THE SERVICE IN ORDER BOTH TO REDUCE SCHEDULE DELAYS AND TO PROVIDE SUFFICIENT TIME EN ROUTE TO RECOVER FROM DELAYS WHICH OCCASIONALLY WILL OCCUR. AIRPORT CURFEWS AT HONG KONG AND TOKYO MAKE THEIR INFLUENCE FELT ALL ALONG THE LINE, AS HAVE THE GENERAL CONGESTION AND AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL PROBLEMS IN FRANKFURT. COMPLICATING THE SCHEDULING FURTHER IS THE OBVIOUS REQUIREMENT FOR A LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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VARIETY OF CAREFULLY COORDINATED CONNECTIONS WITH OTHER U.S. ORIGIN OR DESTINATION FLIGHTS AT VARIOUS POINTS ALONG THE ROUND-THE-WORLD ROUTING.

THE LIST OF FACTORS COULD BE CONTINUED AT LENGTH,
BUT THE MAIN POINT IS THAT ALL THESE FACTORS HAVE COMBINED
TO CREATE AN IMPERATIVE FOR A MAJOR RESTRUCTURING OF THE
ROUND-THE-WORLD SERVICE, AS WELL AS CERTAIN CONNECTING
SERVICES AT KEY TRAFFIC CENTERS.

IN THE INTEREST OF MAINTAINING THE OPEN AND POSITIVE CIVIL AVIATION RELATIONSHIP WHICH EXISTS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND IRAN, THERE IS ATTACHED A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF

THE CHANGES IN PAN AMERICAN'S OPERATIONS TO IRAN. IT WILL

BE NOTED THAT ONE OF THE PLANNED CHANGES INVOLVES A SERVICE NOT SPECIFIED IN THE AGREED CAPACITY PROCEDURES OF FEBRUARY 1, 1973. IN VIEW OF THE IMPORTANCE TO VARIOUS INTERESTS IN MAINTAINING A DAILY U.S. AIRLINE SERVICE TO INDIA AND CONSIDERING THE FACT THAT THERE IS NO IRANIAN AIRLINE SERVICE IN THE MARKET IN QUESTION, IT IS HOPED THAT THE IRANIAN AUTHORITIES WILL

GRANT THE REQUISITE APPROVAL FOR THIS SERVICE. THE U.S. STANDS READY TO DISCUSS WITH THE CONCERNED IRANIAN OFFICIALS ANY MEASURES THAT MAY BE REQUIRED TO AUTHORIZE THE ADDITIONAL SERVICES BEYOND TEHRAN.

ATTACHMENT:

THE SEVERAL CHANGES WHICH PAN AMERICAN ANTICIPATES INTRODUCING IN ITS ROUND-THE-WORLD AND CONNECTING SERVICES ARE, WITH ONE EXCEPTION, PLANNED TO GO INTO EFFECT ON APRIL 28, 1974. (THE EXCEPTION IS THE DISCONTINUATION OF ALL DIRECT SERVICE BETWEEN THE U.S. AND TEHRAN VIA PARIS AS OF OCTOBER 28, 1973.)

WITH THE ONE EXCEPTION TO BE NOTED BELOW, THE VARIOUS CHANGES WILL NOT RESULT IN ANY SERVICES INCONSISTENT WITH THE ARRANGEMENTS AGREED BETWEEN THE U.S. AND IRAN WHICH COVER PAN AMERICAN'S OPERATIONS UP TO MARCH 1, 1975. THAT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IS, PAN AMERICAN'S ROUND-THE-WORLD SERVICE THROUGH TEHRAN INCREASES FROM THREE FLIGHTS PER WEEK IN EACH DIRECTION TO FOUR PER WEEK. ITS SERVICE WITH BOEING 707 EQUIPMENT WILL INCREASE FROM FIVE FLIGHTS PER WEEK TO THE AGREED LEVEL OF SIX.

ON THE MORE IMPORTANT SECTORS, THE CHANGES PAN AMERICAN PLANS WILL HAVE THE FOLLOWING RESULTS:

TO/FROM THE UNITED STATES--TOTAL FREQUENCIES WILL INCREASE TO THE AGREED LEVEL OF 10 PER WEEK, WITH A RESTRUCTURING OF THE POINTS OF ORIGIN IN THE UNITED STATES SO THAT THREE OF THESE FLIGHTS WILL ORIGINATE IN WASHINGTON D.C., WITH THE OTHER SEVEN COMING FROM NEW YORK.

TO/FROM FRANKFURT--THERE WILL BE AN OVERALL CAPACITY REDUCTION OF 61 PERCENT RESULTING FROM THE SUBSTITUTION OF 707 AIRCRAFT FOR 747'S ON THE THRICE WEEKLY SERVICE.

TO/FROM LONDON--THERE WILL BE A FREQUENCY INCREASE FROM THREE TO FOUR PER WEEK. DUE TO THE ELIMINATION OF STOPS AT FRANKFURT AND ISTANBUL ON THE ROUND-THE-WORLD

SERVICE, LONDON-TEHRAN SERVICE WILL HENCEFORTH BE ON A ONE

STOP BASIS.

TO/FROM PARIS--AS NOTED, ALL DIRECT SERVICE HERETO-FORE PROVIDED BY PAN AM HAS BEEN TERMINATED.

TO/FROM ROME--A REDUCTION IN WEEKLY FREQUENCIES FROM FIVE TO THREE RESULTS IN A CAPACITY DECREASE OF 40 PERCENT.

TO/FROM ISTANBUL--THE ELIMINATION OF THREE 747 SERVICES VIA ISTANBUL RESULTS IN A TOTAL REDUCTION OF 72 PERCENT IN THE NUMBER OF SEATS OFFERED.

TO/FROM BEIRUT--THE CURRENT SERVICE OF THREE 747 AND TWO 707 FLIGHTS PER WEEK WILL BE INCREASED TO FOUR 747 FLIGHTS AND THREE 707 FLIGHTS.

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TO/FROM DELHI--IN ADDITION TO THE ALREADY AGREED ON INCREASE IN ROUND-THE-WORLD SERVICES WITH 747 AIRCRAFT FROM THREE TO FOUR PER WEEK, WITH THE CONCURRENCE OF THE IRANIAN AUTHORITIES, PAN AM PLANS TO EXTEND THREE OF ITS 707 FLIGHTS (WHICH CURRENTLY TURN AROUND IN TEHRAN) ONWARD TO TERMINATE IN NEW DELHI.
RUSH

NOTE BY OCT: POUCHED BEIRUT.

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